



## GREEN SPRING GARDENS PARK

### PLANT INFORMATION SHEET

4603 GREEN SPRING ROAD ☎ ALEXANDRIA ☎ VIRGINIA 22312

PHONE: (703) 642-5173 ☎ FAX: (703) 642-8095

WWW.GREENSPRING.ORG

### RECOMMENDED EVERGREEN TREES AND LARGE EVERGREEN SHRUBS FOR THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Evergreen trees are valued for their year-round beauty and shelter for wildlife, as well as providing other environmental benefits and screening unwanted views. A few species are also wonderful shade trees, such as loblolly pine. Tree selection and placement should be done carefully – trees are dominant features in the landscape due to their stature and potential for long life.

Evergreens are often grouped into two categories, broadleaf evergreens and conifers. Broadleaf evergreens have broad, flat leaves. They also may have showy flowers, such as the southern magnolia, or colorful fruits, such as the Nellie R. Stevens holly. Coniferous evergreens either have needle-like foliage, such as the eastern white pine, or scale-like foliage, such as the California incense cedar. Conifers do not have true flowers or fruits but bear cones. Though most conifers are evergreen, exceptions exist. Bald cypress and dawn redwood, for example, lose their needles each fall.

The following are useful definitions:

- Border - a bed that is longer than wide and planted with trees, shrubs, flowers, and/or other types of plants. May be backed by walls, fences, or hedges and is chiefly viewed from one side. Free-standing island beds are a variation on the border.
- Cultivar (cv.) - a cultivated variety designated by single quotes (e.g., 'Bracken's Brown Beauty'). A **variety (var.)** or **subspecies (subsp.)**, in contrast, is found in nature and is a subdivision of a species.
- Naturalistic Use - native plants that, when properly sited, perform well with minimal care; best used in an informal design that suggests a natural landscape.
- Part Shade - the amount of light in an area shaded part of the day, among deciduous trees with high branches, among deciduous trees with foliage that is not heavy, or among thinned deciduous woods.
- Specimen - an ornamental plant situated alone in a prominent, uncrowded space.

The following is a list of evergreen trees and large shrubs that perform well in the Washington, D.C. area. Recommended cultivars are noted in parentheses. Plants that are generally grown as shrubs are noted. Most of these plants prefer moist, well-drained sites but will tolerate dry sites. Light requirements, suggested uses, and special cultural requirements or tolerances are listed in the comments column. Species native to Virginia are marked with an asterisk (\*).

[Gold Medal Plant Awards are given annually by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to underused woody plants that perform especially well in gardens from New York City to Washington, D.C.]

### LARGE EVERGREEN TREES (60+ FEET TALL)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	California Incense Cedar	Specimen, groups, or screen; full sun
<i>Cedrus libani</i> subsp. <i>atlantica</i> ( <i>C. atlantica</i> ) 'Glauca' (‘Fastigiata’ is narrower than the species) Note: <i>C. libani</i> (Cedar of Lebanon) is similar but more formal & has green foliage	Blue Atlas Cedar	Specimen or screen; full sun
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> * (‘Bracken’s Brown Beauty’ [Gold Medal Award], ‘D.D. Blanchard’) Note: ‘Little Gem’ is an excellent small tree – may be borderline cold hardy in some of the outer metropolitan area	Southern Magnolia	Specimen, screen, groups, or espalier; full sun; native of NC & further south in colonial times but now naturalized in VA
<i>Picea omorika</i> [ <i>P. orientalis</i> - Gold Medal Award]	Serbian Spruce	Specimen, groups, or screen; full sun to light shade
<i>Pinus strobus</i> * (‘Fastigiata’ [Gold Medal Award])	Eastern White Pine	Specimen, groups, or screen; salt intolerant; full sun
<i>P. taeda</i> *	Loblolly Pine	Specimen, shade tree, groups, or naturalistic use; full sun
<i>P. wallichiana</i> Note: <i>P. virginiana</i> * (Virginia Pine) is a tough native that is excellent for naturalistic use, in groups, or as a shade tree	Himalayan Pine	Specimen or groups; full sun

### MEDIUM-SIZED EVERGREEN TREES (30-60 FEET TALL)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Ilex opaca</i> * (‘Jersey Delight’ is a female cv.; male pollinator needed, such as ‘Jersey Knight’, for fruit production) [Gold Medal Award for the species]	American Holly	Specimen, groups, screen, or naturalistic use; full sun to part shade

<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> * [Emerald Sentinel™ ('Corcorcor') - Gold Medal Award; a female]	Eastern Red Cedar	Groups, screen, or naturalistic use; full sun; usually separate female & male plants but sometimes both sexes on the same plant
<i>Pinus bungeana</i> <i>P. parviflora</i> & many cultivars	Lacebark Pine Japanese White Pine	Specimen; full sun Specimen, screen, or border; full sun; salt tolerant; needs good drainage
<i>Thuja plicata</i> 'Zebrina' [T. 'Green Giant' – Gold Medal Award]	Western Arborvitae	Specimen, screen, groups, or border; full sun; these two selections look promising - need further evaluation

### SMALL EVERGREEN TREES AND LARGE EVERGREEN SHRUBS (12-30 FEET TALL)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> (eventually a large shrub; 'Graham Blandy' is a narrow upright cv.)	Common Boxwood	Hedge, screen, or specimen; full sun to light shade
<i>Camellia oleifera</i> ('Lu Shan Snow'; eventually a large shrub)	Tea-oil Camellia	Specimen, groups, or border; light shade to part shade
<i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i> 'Crippsii' Note: native <i>C. thyoides</i> * (Atlantic White Cedar) is best for naturalistic use in moist or wet sites; its cv. 'Glauca Pendula' has blue foliage & is more formal looking	Crippsii Hinoki Falsecypress	Specimen, groups, or border; full sun to light shade; prefers moist soil
<i>Ilex</i> × <i>attenuata</i> (male <i>I. opaca</i> plants pollinate this hybrid; one parent of this hybrid is a VA native ( <i>I. opaca</i> ) & the other parent is a NC, etc. native ( <i>I. cassine</i> ) <i>I.</i> × <i>koehneana</i> ('Wirt L. Winn' [female], 'Ajax' [male pollinator]) <i>I.</i> 'Mary Nell' <i>I.</i> 'Nellie R. Stevens'	Foster's Holly  Koehne Holly  Mary Nell Holly Nellie R. Stevens Holly	Specimen, border, or groups; full sun to part shade  Specimen, screen, hedge, or border; full sun to part shade  Sets fruit without a male plant for pollination
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Torulosa' ['Kaizuka'], 'Robusta Green', & 'Wintergreen'	Chinese Juniper Cultivars	Border or specimen; full sun

<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> * (semi-evergreen to evergreen; 'Henry Hicks' remains evergreen at much colder temperatures than the species; var. <i>australis</i> is evergreen but taller than 'Henry Hicks' & looks rattier at Green Spring at the end of very cold winters than 'Henry Hicks')	Sweet Bay Magnolia	Specimen, groups, border, or naturalistic use in moist to wet soils; full sun to part shade  Note: Semi-evergreen foliage is green only part of the winter or only part of the foliage is fully evergreen
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> * ('Emerald', 'Nigra', 'Techny')	Eastern Arborvitae	Hedge, screen, or border; full sun; 'Emerald' & 'Techny' are smaller plants & more shrub- like

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Developed by Brenda Skarphol, Curatorial Horticulturist

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